



6 April 2007

USFK 2007 Summer Safety Campaign

1. We are responsible and we are accountable. No deaths and no excuses is our charge. The summer season is just around the corner and it is time for us to refocus our efforts on preventing hazards associated with the warmer months and summertime activities. Throughout the summer season, we must remain diligent and continue with pro-active measures in identifying, assessing and mitigating environmental change and its effects on our ground and air operations and off duty activities.

2. Our USFK Summer Safety Campaign begins 1 May and runs through 30 September. Our USFK Summer Safety Campaign Memo is located at the following web site:

<http://safety.korea.army.mil/SafetyCampaign/Resources/2007%20USFK%20Summer%20Safety%20Campaign.pdf>

It details information about the campaign and tasks commanders to develop and supervise summer safety programs for their units.

3. The success of this campaign depends on all of us. Leaders, and more specifically first-line supervisors, must be personally involved in and accountable for the development and implementation of their unit summer safety program. I expect leaders at every level to take ownership of their Servicemember's safety and enforce safety and behavioral standards.

4. During this campaign, we must all collectively and individually redouble our efforts to eliminate incidents of Servicemember misconduct involving under-age drinking, alcohol abuse, curfew violation, and sexual assault. The entire chain-of-command must be engaged and aggressively work to prevent this type of dysfunctional and potentially criminal behavior. Servicemembers need to fully understand the consequences of undisciplined behavior, and exercise good judgment, military values, discipline and good personal decision-making during off-duty activities. Finally, destructive weather including flash floods is a wild card commanders need to keep in their cross-check procedures.

5. The Summer Safety Campaign focuses on the following areas:

- **Leader Responsibility and Accountability.** The commander's and leader's personal involvement sets the tone for success. Numerous studies tell us that safe operations on and off duty are a function of O-5 level battalion / squadron command which penetrates to and positively impacts the engagement by first-line supervisors with their personnel. Instilling chain-of-command responsibility at those levels is our charge and essential to a successful safety program. Leaders must ensure the composite risk management process is integrated into every aspect of the unit's activities, ground, air, and off-duty. Our "Under the Oak Tree" counseling approach outlined in my [Command Policy Letter #2](#) is the best method to positively impact on the behavior of subordinates.

- **Heat Injuries.** Leaders and Servicemembers must be aware that prevention of hot weather injuries is vital in sustaining combat power. Leaders must be constantly aware of the condition of their personnel and remain alert for the symptoms and signs of heat injuries. All Servicemembers must be responsible for their buddies' condition as well as their own.

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- **Water Activities.** The most common factors in water related accidental deaths are alcohol use, inexperience, horseplay, lack of supervision, and swimming in unauthorized areas. On-going safety awareness and swimming only in authorized areas are the keys to preventing accidents. All Garrison and Base Installations must distribute information on authorized swimming areas.

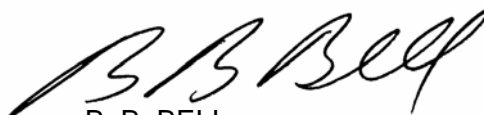
- **Alcohol and Substance Abuse.** The chain-of-command is responsible to prevent alcohol abuse. We must be fully engaged with our Servicemember's to ensure they do not abuse alcohol. They must fully understand the potential consequences for non-compliance. Here in Korea, we have seen how irresponsible over-consumption of alcohol can result in not only a terrible incident or death, but also in a negative national-level Alliance incident. Remember, battle buddies and combat wingman are also responsible to do their duty and prevent their buddy from over-consumption of alcohol.

- **Motor Vehicle Safety.** Vehicle operations continue to be an on-going concern in Korea. The dangers of driving while drowsy or under the influence of alcohol and/or medications and the hazards associated with operating vehicles, especially motorcycles, must be emphasized. New arrivals and individuals traveling to CONUS are at higher risk.

- **Wellness issues.** Separation from family and home can be difficult. Deployments and pending deployments place an additional stress on personnel and their families. We must understand the risks involved with separation, and give continued support to all our Servicemembers and their families.

6. Start preparing for executing a safe summer now. No deaths and no excuses. We are responsible and accountable. As we execute our mission here in Korea, preventing loss of life and injury to all Servicemembers, Civilians, Contractors, and Family members is our number one charge. Let's have a great, safe, incident-free summer!

7. We Go Together!



B. B. BELL
General, US Army
Commander

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